



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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**Testimony of Representative Geoff Luxenberg**

**In support of SB 360 An Act Concerning Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder  
Associated With Streptococcal Infections**

**Public Health Public Hearing 2-27-13**

**Proposed S.B. No. 360 An Act Concerning Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated With  
Streptococcal Infections.**

Dear Chairman Gerratana, Chairman Johnson and distinguished member of the Public Health Committee, I testify today in support of Senate Bill 360 An Act Concerning Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated With Streptococcal Infections. If adopted this legislation would amend the General Statutes to establish an outreach and education program for health care providers for the recognition of and treatment options for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorder associated with streptococcal infections.

Included in the state's 2012 Budget, a \$40,000 grant to Yale University represented a great step forward, providing funds for research for improved diagnoses and treatment as well as an evaluation of the level of recognition of the disorder within the medical community. While we have made valuable progress on this issue, there remains greater progress yet to be made.

Families all across the country and the state of Connecticut are dealing with the disorder, many of whom do not yet know that their child has PANDAS. Had all of these children been diagnosed correctly, these families would have avoided the enormous financial and emotional costs that come with this disorder.

Improving the level of awareness and education regarding PANDAS within the medical community is absolutely vital in dealing with PANDAS. This bill can go a long way in doing just that, so that children with this disorder are able to be diagnosed and treated properly.

A constituent of mine, a mother of a child with PANDAS, who you will hear from today, informed me of this important public health issue. To ensure greater awareness of PANDAS within the medical community, I encourage the committee to support this bill.

I thank you for your indulgence and consideration of this legislation and am open to any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rep. Geoff Luxenberg  
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